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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 132: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

(a) FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/49/717 and Corr.1 and A/49/778)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/49/717 and Corr.1), said that the report, which had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 48/226 C, indicated the criteria for deciding which support activities should be funded from the regular budget and which from the support account, the extent to which the regular budget was already providing support, and the threshold for establishing core posts to be funded from the regular budget. The report also indicated the financial status of the support account from its inception on 1 May 1990 to 31 December 1994, as well as the number of support account posts in 1995.

2. It was the urgent wish of the Secretary-General to increase the Secretariat's capacity to provide backstopping for the increased level of peace-keeping activities. Backstopping functions were not only the responsibility of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, but were provided by a number of other Secretariat units, all of which were essential in providing effective support. Backstopping was defined as the overall direction, assistance and guidance given by Headquarters units for ensuring the effective planning, implementation and liquidation of peace-keeping operations. Such activities were categorized as "core" functions and "non-core" functions. "Core" functions were those necessary for the Secretariat to have a permanent capability to plan and launch peace-keeping operations and thus be able to respond immediately to mandates of the Security Council and other legislative organs. Those functions, which represented fixed costs, should be financed from the regular budget. Peace-keeping activities also involved backstopping functions that fluctuated depending on the operation, representing variable costs which should be financed from the support account.

3. The total number of posts required in the support account for backstopping functions had been estimated at 630. However, the current funding of the support account under the peace-keeping budget represented 8.5 per cent of the civilian component costs of peace-keeping operations.

4. It was envisaged that the 1995 level of the support account would be the same as in 1994 and it was therefore proposed that 431 posts, including the conversion of 65 posts currently under general temporary assistance and an additional 24 posts, should be funded from the support account in 1995. The Secretariat acknowledged the assistance of Member States which had provided personnel, frequently at no cost, to assist in backstopping activities.

5. It was essential for the Fifth Committee to take immediate action, pending a thorough review of the matter, to allow backstopping activities to continue in 1995. In particular, the Committee must authorize continuance of the current level of staffing, including the regularization of the 65 posts currently under general temporary assistance. In view of the difficulty of attracting suitably qualified staff on a wide geographical basis to such temporary posts, it was of particular importance for the Fifth Committee to act on the Secretary-General's request for their regularization.

6. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/49/778), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations were intended to allow the Secretariat to continue to fund activities in support of peace-keeping operations pending a thorough review of the Secretary-General's report.

7. The Advisory Committee requested clarification of paragraphs 36 to 38 of the Secretary-General's report. The General Assembly had already authorized the financing of 342 posts from the support account, while the Advisory Committee had previously recommended the establishment of 60 additional posts, which, with the addition of 5 posts by ACABQ and the Fifth Committee as general temporary assistance, made a total of 407 posts. The Advisory Committee was now recommending that the General Assembly should, for the period 1 January to 30 June 1995, authorize funding of $14,105,900 from the support account in respect of those posts. It was for the General Assembly to decide whether to continue to fund all 65 posts on a temporary basis or to approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation to establish 60 posts, 2 posts being funded from temporary assistance and the remaining 3 posts having been authorized by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee.

8. The non-post costs were reflected in paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, which was recommending funding of a number of items for less than six months pending a thorough review in the first quarter of 1995.

9. Mr. STÖCKL (Germany) said he understood that any decision taken by the Committee would be based on the assumption that the Field Administration and Logistics Division would remain part of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

10. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) said that, since a number of operations would be terminated or significantly reduced in size during 1995, the Controller's assumption that funding for the support account should remain at the 1994 level was questionable. In view of the proposal regarding the establishment of 60 posts previously funded from general temporary assistance, his delegation wished to receive an assurance that it would be possible to reduce the number of posts quickly should funding constraints imposed by a smaller support account make that desirable. Further, noting that the report before the Committee was one of several interim reports that the Advisory Committee had prepared, he said he hoped that ACABQ would be able to conduct a full review of the support account during the first part of 1995.

11. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said it was obvious that uncertainties surrounded the 1995 support account projections. Nevertheless the Secretariat had sought to reflect all possible elements, including those referred to by the representative of the United Kingdom, in reaching its conclusion that it was reasonable to assume that the 1994 level would be valid for 1995. The Secretariat was, however, always aware of the possible need for downsizing.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Financing for the expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (A/C.5/49/38)

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that an additional appropriation of $19,266,000 was being requested under section 4, taking into account the initial appropriation of $8,994,100 in respect of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA). In addition, the Secretary-General was requesting an amount of $1,464,200 under section 28, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

13. The report indicated that estimated expenditure for the period 1 January to 31 July 1994 had amounted to $28,260,100, against a total authorization of $39,035,000. A breakdown was provided in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/49/38). There was thus an uncommitted balance of $10,774,900.

14. The Advisory Committee had taken the view that the performance report was incomplete; in particular, there was no indication in annex II as to why estimated expenditure differed from the total amounts authorized in various areas. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that a full performance report in respect of UNOMSA should be reflected in the final performance report for the biennium 1994-1995. In particular, final expenditures should be related to activities budgeted for and implemented, and an inventory of assets should be provided, indicating their final disposition.

15. Subject to those considerations, the Advisory Committee recommended an additional appropriation of $19,266,000 under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and a further appropriation of $1,464,200 under section 28, to be offset by a similar amount under income section 1.

16. The CHAIRMAN read out the following draft decision:

"The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

"1. Approves an appropriation of $19,266,000 under section 4 of the programme budget for 1994-1995, an appropriation of $1,464,200 under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment);

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a full final performance report relating to the final expenditures of the Mission to the activities budgeted and implemented. The report should include the detailed financial statements of the Mission and an inventory of assets, as well as a report on their final disposition. This report should assess the experiences and budget performance of the Mission with the aim of formulating recommendations for future similar undertakings."

17. Mr. BLUKIS (Latvia) suggested that the words "similar" and "future" should be inverted at the end of the text.

18. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) suggested that the word "undertakings" should be replaced by the word "operations".

19. Mr. BOIN (France) asked which scale and which rates would apply if the appropriation were to be included in the regular budget and thus in the letter of assessment to be sent to Member States in January 1995, particularly as UNOMSA would be enlarged in 1995. He also wondered if assessments would be weighted.

20. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the additional appropriation would be included in the consolidated statement of programme budget implications issued at the end of the session. The final total amount would be reflected in the Committee's decision on the revised estimates. The scale of assessments to be applied would be the one adopted by the Committee for 1995. The same procedure would apply to all decisions taken recently by the General Assembly on financial commitments not accompanied by appropriations.

21. Mr. BOIN (France) said that logic and equity required the application of the scale applicable during the period in which the expenditure had been incurred. The 1994 scale should therefore apply in the present case. That was the rule for the financing of peace-keeping operations and it should also apply to the regular budget; it was a sine qua non of France's support for the decision.

22. Mr. MUÑOZ (Spain) endorsed the comments made by the representative of France.

23. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the General Assembly had always applied the following year's scale to additional appropriations under the regular budget. Any other arrangement would cause considerable technical complications.

24. Mr. BOIN (France) said that, since the correct scale was applied for peace-keeping operations, which were much more complex than regular budget operations, he could not see why it could not be applied to the regular budget. His delegation proposed that the existing practice should be changed; otherwise, it would not support any decision on programme budget implications. The principle was one of equity and justice for all Member States.

25. Mr. MUÑOZ (Spain) said that it ought to be easy to resolve the difficulties and that it would certainly be fairer to proceed as the French delegation proposed. His delegation had joined in the consensus on the decisions on programme budget implications, but thought that the existing practice should be changed. The simplest procedure might be to have a single scale for each budget exercise.

26. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had been happy to see the appropriations for Afghanistan and Central America treated outside the provisions of the contingency fund, but had concluded that the amounts involved could not be treated as part of the base for the regular budget outline procedure. It was objectively in the same position as the French and Spanish delegations but it had had no doubt from the outset that the present situation would be the inevitable result of the failure of the General Assembly to decide on the level of assessment at the time it approved the expenditure. There might now be questions for the General Assembly to address with regard to such significant activities which were being financed outside the provisions of the contingency fund. His delegation was not happy with the Secretary-General's interpretation of the annexes to resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. Perhaps the Committee should return to the issue in the context of the regular budget proposals for the biennium 1996-1997. A risk was clearly created by the proliferation of activities not subject to the contingency fund procedure; there was also a risk that the budgetary rigour inherent in that procedure was being circumvented.

27. Mr. STÖCKL (Germany) said that his delegation took the same position as France and Spain on the scale to be applied to 1994 appropriations. It also endorsed the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom on the base for the next regular budget outline.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that the issues raised could not be settled at the current meeting. He suggested therefore that they should be discussed in greater detail at a later stage and that the Committee should now adopt the draft decision which he had read out earlier.

29. The draft decision was adopted.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.2/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 72 (continued) (A/C.5/49/35)

30. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.2/Rev.1, no additional appropriation would be required under section 3B of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The General Assembly would, however, in respect of the Pretoria meeting, authorize an exception from the principle that United Nations organs should meet at their established headquarters in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243.

31. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.45 concerning agenda item 37 (continued) (A/C.5/49/36)

32. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) said that, at the previous meeting, his delegation had requested additional time to consider the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.45 as they related to the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the activities of the special mission and the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan should be dealt with outside the mechanism of the contingency fund. His delegation was concerned about the manner in which the provisions of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211 were being applied. When an activity of a temporary nature became a recurrent activity, it should be financed from the regular budget; that should be taken into account when requests were submitted to the General Assembly for additional resources. His delegation, however, would accept the recommendation of the Secretary-General on the basis of the precedent set at the forty-eighth session. If the activities in Afghanistan and other similar activities were dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, they must also be excluded from the base for purposes of calculating the budget outline.

33. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/49/36), the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should draft resolution A/49/L.45 be adopted, an additional appropriation of $1 million would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, it being understood that the activities in question were of an extraordinary nature related to the maintenance of peace and security and should thus be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213. An additional appropriation of $150,000 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

34. It was so decided.

35. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) reiterated his delegation's reservations about the application of the procedure provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213 in cases where an activity related to the maintenance of peace and security had been ongoing for a considerable period of time. It believed that the provisions of the annex to resolution 42/211 were also applicable.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.35 concerning agenda item 42 (continued) (A/C.5/49/45)

36. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation firmly supported the intent of draft resolution A/49/L.45, but was disappointed that the Secretary-General had failed to take a more imaginative approach to United Nations assistance to Central America. His delegation had the impression that $330,300 was to be spent on the production of a report. The continued renewal of the same temporary post did not constitute sound management; the functions should be assumed by existing permanent staff. His delegation, however, was prepared to join the consensus on the decision.

37. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the programme budget implications (A/C.5/49/45), the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should draft resolution A/49/L.35 be adopted, an additional appropriation of $330,300 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, it being understood that the activities described in the draft resolution were related to the maintenance of peace and security and should thus be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213. An additional amount of $73,300 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

38. It was so decided.

39. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) confirmed that the comments he had made in respect of the Committee's decision with regard to the statement of programme budget implications in document A/C.5/49/36 also applied to the decision which had just been taken.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly for adoption by the Second Committee in its report contained in document A/49/729/Add.5 concerning agenda item 89 (continued) (A/C.5/49/52)

40. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that, in a number of United Nations forums, his delegation had endorsed many of the substantive premises of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee; it had also provided financial support. It had, however, supported the draft resolution on the assumption that the requirements for new posts would be minimal. That was clearly not the case, for the Secretary-General was proposing to add seven new posts to five different units of the Secretariat: the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and three regional commissions. The futility of that questionable scattering of resources would surely become apparent during consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. His delegation therefore agreed with the Advisory Committee that the posts should be filled on a temporary basis only.

41. Referring to paragraph 11 (c) of the draft resolution, he said that it would be wiser to digest what had been learned from the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States before planning a second global conference. Progress should be measured in terms of conferences, meetings and posts.

42. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) said that the procedure for the submission of programme budget implications would be greatly improved if the Secretariat were more forthcoming at an earlier stage in the negotiation of draft resolutions. Reacting to draft resolutions in the short interval between the time they were introduced and the time they were adopted was not conducive to serious

deliberations. His delegation would none the less join the consensus in the light of the comments made by the Advisory Committee.

43. In reporting to the General Assembly on programme budget implications which were subject to contingency fund procedures, the Fifth Committee should remind the Assembly of the provisions of part C of the annex to resolution 42/211. It should further indicate that, if programme budget implications exceeded the sums available in the contingency fund, there was no guarantee that all activities could be financed in 1995.

44. Mr. SHARP (Australia) said that, while his delegation shared many of the concerns voiced by the United States and United Kingdom representatives with respect to budgetary procedure, it also believed that the outcome of the first global Conference had been extremely important and should be followed up on the basis of the draft resolution in document A/49/729/Add.5. His delegation hoped that the necessary resources would be provided, within the limits decided by the Fifth Committee.

45. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that her delegation would join the consensus on the decision but would have preferred to see the suggestions of the Secretariat taken into account.

46. Mr. KING (Trinidad and Tobago) noted that, during the deliberations in the Second Committee on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.37/Rev.1, his delegation, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and the Algerian delegation, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, had requested clarification of certain aspects of the programme budget implications. In that connection, the Alliance of Small Island States could accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee but, like Cuba, it believed that the recommendations of the Secretariat would have been a more appropriate basis for consideration of the question by the Fifth Committee.

47. He agreed with the Australian representative that the first global Conference had been extremely successful and hoped that the international community would continue to provide the relevant funding for the follow-up. Referring to the comment made by the United States representative, he noted that the mandate for the convening of a series of conferences had been established at the highest level by Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Moreover, paragraph 11 contained no more than a request to the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider the practical modalities of a second conference at an appropriate time.

48. Mr. BOIN (France) requested a consolidated statement, or summary table, of all programme budget implications showing the status of the contingency fund with respect to part C, paragraph 6, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211. He noted that the costs related to a number of activities, such as the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), greatly exceeded the amounts available in the contingency fund. The Committee would have to deal with that problem at some point.

49. Mr. SHARP (Australia) supported the French representative's request.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that an illustrative table reflecting proposals made during informal consultations on the scale of assessments was being circulated to members of the Committee.

51. He suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/49/52) and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report contained in document A/49/729/Add.5 be adopted, an additional appropriation of $460,500 would be required under sections 8, 11A, 15, 16 and 18 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, subject to the criteria for use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.

52. It was so decided.

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and special sessions of 1994 (continued) (A/C.5/49/12)

53. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that, should it approve the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in his report in document A/C.5/49/12, an additional appropriation of $772,400 would be required under sections 8, 14 and 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-19952, subject to the criteria for use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.

54. It was so decided.

55. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) noted that, on an earlier occasion, programme budget implications relating to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) had appeared to exceed those reported to the Economic and Social Council. His delegation had accepted the Chairman's suggestion on the understanding that no further financial implications would be brought to the Committee's attention at the current juncture.

AGENDA ITEM 119: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (A/49/559 and A/49/771)

56. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) (A/49/559) presented a financial performance report for MINURSO for the period from 1 January to 30 September 1994, which reflected gross savings of over $3.3 million, and cost estimates for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1994, during which the Secretariat had been operating under the commitment authority provided by ACABQ, and for the period after 30 November 1994. As noted in paragraph 8 of the report, the total expenditure of the Mission from its inception up to 30 September 1994 together with the commitment authority provided by ACABQ amounted to $145,670,350 gross, in other

words slightly more than the initial gross appropriation of $143 million. An additional gross appropriation of $2,670,350 was therefore required for the period ended 30 November 1994. However, the commitment authority provided by ACABQ was still within the initial appropriation and there was no need at present for an additional assessment. The Advisory Committee had concurred with the proposal of the Secretary-General. The monthly requirement of the Mission for the period after 30 November 1994 was estimated at $3,245,100 gross on the basis of its current actual strength.

57. In its report (A/49/771), the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request for an additional appropriation of $2,670,350 gross for the period ending 30 November 1994. It also recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments at a rate not to exceed $3.2 million gross per month for the period after 30 November 1994 and agreed to the Secretary-General's proposal that special arrangements with respect to article IV of the Financial Regulations should be applied to MINURSO. The Secretariat had taken note of the recommendations of ACABQ regarding improvements in the format and presentation of the financial performance report and a reduction in the number of vehicles used by the Mission.

58. In his latest report on the situation to the Security Council (S/1994/1420), the Secretary-General expressed the hope that, by 31 March 1995, the progress achieved in the identification and registration process would reach a level that would enable him to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the start of the transitional period. The referendum campaign would then begin at the end of September 1995 and the referendum itself would be held in October 1995. The enhanced activities of the Mission would entail additional expenditure to be covered under the unforeseen and extraordinary expenses procedure. The Secretariat hoped to be able to provide details of the additional expenditure early in 1995.

59. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that, since the issuance of the report before the Committee on 20 October 1994, the Secretary-General had reported twice to the Security Council. The first report (S/1994/1257) gave an account of developments in the identification and registration process and contained a proposal that the Secretary-General should visit the region to hold consultations with a view to accelerating the implementation of the settlement plan and report to the Security Council on his visit. In the second report (S/1994/1420), the Secretary-General described the consultations which he had held in the region and made practical proposals for the acceleration of the identification and registration process and for the referendum to be held in October 1995. He had also proposed that the number of identification and registration centres should be increased from 4 to 25. Details of the additional personnel needed to staff 25 centres were given in paragraph 19 of the report: a total of 51 additional Professional staff, as well as General Service support staff. The technical team which had visited the region had also agreed that the identification and registration process should be speeded up and had supported the idea of expanding the Identification Commission.

60. The main concern of his delegation was that the process should be accelerated: that point had been emphasized by His Majesty King Hassan II and by the Foreign Minister of Morocco in their talks with the Secretary-General. The Identification Commission must be given the necessary resources as soon as possible; it should be noted that the Secretary-General had not yet acted on the Security Council's recommendation that the resources already approved by the General Assembly should be made available to the Commission. The Controller was not justified in stating that the activities in question were unforeseen, and the procedure he proposed seemed inappropriate. The Secretariat should be asked to update its report and identify the resources needed to speed up the process, as recommended by the Security Council, the Secretary-General and, indeed, his own delegation. In the circumstances, his delegation could not accept the report of ACABQ. Furthermore, it would prefer the informal negotiations on the item not to begin until updated information had been provided by the Secretariat and new proposals had been submitted by the Secretary-General.

61. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that his delegation was prepared to work on the basis of the reports of ACABQ (A/49/771) and the Secretary-General (A/49/559) and supported all the recommendations made by ACABQ, which were in keeping with those of the Secretary-General. He wondered whether waiting for the report from the Secretary-General to the Security Council would not have an adverse effect on the functioning of MINURSO. He also wondered what action had been taken by the Secretariat since the commitment authority in respect of the Mission had expired on 30 November 1994. The report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council, which dealt, in particular, with the holding of a fair and equitable referendum in the Western Sahara, had not been addressed to the General Assembly. As soon as the Security Council had taken a decision on the report before it, the General Assembly and ACABQ would take the appropriate measures.

62. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that, in his most recent report to the Security Council (S/1994/1420) the Secretary-General recommended that the process of identifying and registering potential voters and expanding the Identification Commission should be speeded up. As soon as the Security Council had decided on the recommendations, the Secretariat would provide it with the financial implications and detailed cost estimates. There were certain well-established mechanisms to cope with changing situations. The potential expansion of the Mission was not unpredictable and was no impediment to the implementation of the proposals set out in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council.

63. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said he concluded from the Controller's failure to reply to his question concerning the recommendation of the Security Council for the release of the resources already approved by the General Assembly, that those resources had already been released. The Secretariat had been aware the previous week that additional resources would be requested by the Security Council and he wanted the Committee to consider the new cost estimates being prepared by the Secretariat. He wondered, in that regard, whether the updated financial information to which he had referred could be made available to the Committee, which could then use it as a basis for a commitment authority

consistent with the actual situation in the field, which had no doubt changed since the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 15 November 1994 (S/PRST/1994/67). The Advisory Committee could review and reduce the amount, if it saw fit, but the information was necessary for the proper functioning of the Mission.

64. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the proposals submitted to the Security Council would be accompanied by a brief financial statement and that it would be up to the General Assembly to review and approve a financial appropriation. Any decision by the Security Council concerning MINURSO would be implemented promptly and the proper functioning of the Mission would not be adversely affected. The Secretariat would shortly be in a position to prepare the financial addendum to the progress report of the Secretary-General of 14 December 1994 (S/1994/1420). He did not know when the Security Council would take action on the proposal, but that should not prevent the Fifth Committee from reviewing the issue before it. There was no reason to believe that the established mechanism could not handle the current, or even an expanded, mandate.

65. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that a similar situation had occurred on three different occasions. Each time the Secretariat had managed to produce estimates in informal consultations and, on that basis, recommendations had been made with regard to commitment authority. The Committee should follow exactly the same procedure in the current instance.

AGENDA ITEM 125: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (A/49/590 and A/49/781)

66. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (A/49/590) said that, taking into account the very generous voluntary contributions, amounting to $10,850,000, pledged by the Governments of Cyprus and Greece, the General Assembly would be requested to appropriate $11,950,000 gross for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 15 June to 31 December 1994. That amount would be set off against the unencumbered balance for the period ending 31 December 1994. For the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995, commitment authority of $21,916,600 gross was proposed, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP beyond 31 December 1994. With regard to the 12-month period after 30 June 1995, commitment authority of $43,472,300 gross was proposed, taking into account the voluntary contributions that would be received from the Governments of Cyprus and Greece, should the Security Council decide to continue UNFICYP beyond 30 June 1995. In that regard, the net figure in paragraph 22 of the ACABQ report should read $42,645,700, not $43,059,000. The Secretariat intended to maintain a separate budget for UNFICYP. It had taken note of the Advisory Committee's recommendations and would implement them.

67. Mr. STAVRINOS (Cyprus) said that the only way the Organization could successfully respond to the increase in the demand for peace-keeping operations and the related costs was to secure the full support of Member States in facing

up to their responsibilities and commitments. In that connection, he noted that an amount of $1.6 billion remained unpaid for peace-keeping operations as of the end of November 1994.

68. As the President of the General Assembly had pointed out in his statement at the beginning of the session, of the 82 conflicts in the world today, 79 were internal. In other words, only three, including the Cyprus conflict, were international. Since the primary objective of the United Nations was the maintenance of international peace and security, those international conflicts should be given priority.

69. His delegation favoured the annualization of financially predictable operations, as that would lessen the Committee's workload. However, it had reservations with respect to the use of the term "stable" to characterize certain missions and the suggestion that reports on the financing of peace-keeping operations characterized as such, including UNFICYP, should be unified. It was inappropriate to merge politically independent missions, thus diminishing the unique value of each budget and creating confusion in the distinct, transparent and analytical examination of the financial situation of each specific operation.

70. Despite the relative predictability of UNFICYP, its structure and financing had changed dramatically in June 1993. In examining the predictability of the operation, the current efforts of the Secretary-General to achieve a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus problem should be taken into account. His delegation sincerely hoped that those efforts would at last produce progress. Should such a positive development occur, the structure and financing of UNFICYP would undoubtedly undergo certain fundamental changes. For all those reasons, Cyprus believed that UNFICYP should not be among the missions included in a unified budget.

71. Another misconception was the idea of setting deadlines for peace-keeping operations. The entire structure of peace-keeping in the United Nations would collapse if logistics were left to govern the viability of such operations. It would also send the wrong message to current and prospective aggressors. While his delegation agreed that peace-keeping operations should not become permanent, it felt that it was those responsible for the creation and continuation of peace-keeping operations through their illegal acts who should be punished for the long-term continuation of such operations. Setting deadlines for peace-keeping operations would be tantamount to victimizing the innocent victims of acts of aggression a second time by imposing on them the consequences of the Organization's inability to act with the same determination in every case where its resolutions were disregarded.

72. Cyprus, a victim of foreign aggression, invasion and occupation, had had the bitter privilege of understanding by experience the immense value of a peace-keeping operation. For that reason, and despite its economic difficulties, his Government had voluntarily paid, on a yearly basis, one third of the total cost of UNFICYP, which had amounted for the previous 12-month period to $18 million and for the current 6-month period to $7,600,000. The

Greek Government also paid an annual voluntary contribution to UNFICYP of $6,500,000. He was disappointed that Turkey, the country responsible through its illegal actions for the need to maintain UNFICYP for so many years, had, in September 1993, declared that it would not be able to participate in the financing of the operation. He hoped that the Government of Turkey would change its attitude, fulfil its own promises and comply with the numerous United Nations resolutions. That would result in a reduction in the current strength of the Force. In that regard, he noted that, if the proposal made by the President of Cyprus to the General Assembly earlier in the session for the complete demilitarization of Cyprus was acceptable, the Organization and its Member States would be relieved of the burden of sustaining UNFICYP.

73. With regard to the criteria for a fairer scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations, he proposed that, besides capacity to pay, States responsible for illegal acts and for the creation and maintenance of peace-keeping operations should be made to pay disproportionately higher percentages than others. Such an arrangement would not only be fairer, but would also serve to deter prospective aggressors by making it clear that they could no longer escape without at least incurring part of the economic cost for their illegal acts.

74. Mr. KELLY (Ireland), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, said that, as of 30 November 1994, a total of $200 million was owed to these six countries in respect of reimbursement of troop costs which had been incurred during the period prior to 16 June 1993. That figure represented only a small part of what those countries had spent in making contingents and personnel available to UNFICYP over the previous 30 years as, under the legal agreements concluded at its inception, the United Nations had agreed to make only partial reimbursements to troop contributors' expenses.

75. The six delegations continued to hold the view that the outstanding troop costs for the period prior to 16 June 1993 represented legitimate peace-keeping expenses which the Organization had undertaken to reimburse. In that regard, they were very grateful to all those Member States and observer States which had made voluntary contributions to offset the amounts owed to UNFICYP troop contributors for the period prior to 16 June 1993 and endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal that those Governments whose current assessments were lower than their previous voluntary contributions towards the financing of UNFICYP might wish to consider contributing the difference to the special account for the period prior to 16 June 1993.

76. The six delegations firmly believed that additional measures, based on the principle that peace-keeping expenses should be properly financed by the membership as a whole, were required in order to deal adequately with the problem. In that regard, they welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that the unencumbered balance of $1,349,600 for the period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 and the projected unencumbered balance of $190,900 for the period from 16 June to 31 December 1994 should be credited to the Special Account to offset the Force's expenses for the period prior to 16 June 1993. That proposal should be endorsed in the resolution on the financing of UNFICYP.

77. The six delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that annual budgets should be introduced for stable peace-keeping missions such as UNFICYP, as well as the Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding an appropriation for the financing of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.